

STATE SENATOR • MARTHA G. SCOTT • 2ND DISTRICT

Scott Press Release



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Scott Wins Clothing Allowance Increase for FIP Participants

Three-year Fight Gains More Cash for School Children

(LANSING) – Under a proposal passed by the Senate, every child who participates in the Family Independence Program (FIP) will receive increased funding for clothing next year. Senate Democrats, led by Sen. Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park), secured higher payments in the proposed Fiscal Year 2006 Department of Human Services (DHS) budget.

The expanded allowance is a result of a three-year fight over funding levels as well as payment eligibility. Sen. Scott won greater financial support and was successful in her efforts to permit all children to receive a clothing allowance. The previous two years provided a clothing allowance only for school-age children, 4 to 18 years old.

“Every child, regardless of their age, should begin the school year with decent clothing,” Sen. Scott said. “The increase in funding allows families to stretch their dollars a bit further.”

The clothing allotment for next year reflects an increase of \$317,500. Administered by DHS, the program has struggled to survive in the midst of nearly \$3 billion in cuts to the state budget. The proposal will be assigned to a conference committee to resolve the differences between the Senate and House versions of the DHS budget.

FIP recipients were recently notified of the clothing allowance for this year’s school year in a mailing that also advised them to contact their FIP worker to inquire about local retailers that might offer discounts to stretch the extra cash even further.

The clothing allowance program is federally funded, giving states guided control over distribution.

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